

Mitchell Meteer Barn
State Route 154
Victor Vicinity
Monroe County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1218

HABS
Mo
69-VICT.V,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

MITCHELL METEER BARN

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Location: 0.1 mile west of the South Fork of the Salt River, 2.9 miles southeast of the intersection of State Route 154 and County Route Z, 1.6 miles south of Victor, Monroe County, Missouri.

USGS Florida 7-1/2' Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.600490.4364990.

Present Owner: United States of America, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District (August 1978).

Present Use: Vacant. Located in the Clarence Cannon Dam and Reservoir Project Area.

Significance: The Mitchell Meteer Barn, built prior to the Civil War, is one of the two remaining structures of a mid-nineteenth century farmstead. It is an example of the transverse crib plan type and is constructed of heavy oak timbers with mortise-and-tenon joinery.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Circa 1850-60. Although an exact date cannot be documented, two similar barns in the region have been documented within the same time period. According to Marshall, "the old Marshall place" in Randolph County was built in 1855, and Bill Creson's barn in Howard County, closer in floor plan to the Meteer Barn, was constructed about 1850.
2. Architect/builder: It is assumed that Mitchell Meteer built the barn with the help of his neighbors.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Meteer Barn is located in the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 30, Township 54 North, Range 8 West. The following references are from the deed books in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Monroe County Courthouse, Paris, Missouri:

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- 1834 Plat Book, August 28, 1834. Recorded in the original Plat Book. 240 acres.
- 1847 Warranty Deed, October 29, 1847. Recorded in Book 1, page 183. Noel Datin (spelled "Dayton") to Mitchell Meteer (spelled "Metier"). 240 acres for \$500.
- 1873 Warranty Deed, August 27, 1873. Recorded in Book 4, page 250. James P. (son) and Francis Meteer to John W. Meteer (other son). 40 acres for \$100.
- 1889 Warranty Deed, November 25, 1889. Recorded in Book 31, page 2. James P. Meteer to John A. and Martha Krigbaum. 120 acres for \$1600.
- 1899 Warranty Deed, February 2, 1899. Recorded in book 44, page 585. John A. and Martha E. Krigbaum to Albert Moss Crow. 120 acres for \$4200.
- 1928 Warranty Deed, December 15, 1927. Recorded in Book 88, page 454. Albert M. and Florence A. Crow to Thomas A. and Rilla F. Utterback. No acreage given: \$8000.
- 1930 Warranty Deed, May 6, 1930. Recorded in Book 90, page 428. Thomas A. and Rilla F. Utterback to Charles M. and Addie Sue Murry. 105 acres for \$1. (Subject to \$3000 deed of trust to Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company. Book 64, page 22.)
- 1932 Warranty Deed, January 21, 1932. Recorded in Book 93, page 284. Charles M. and Addie Sue Murry to L.T. and M.G. Proctor, Jr. 25 acres for \$1. (Subject to deed of trust for \$900. Book 70, page 235.)
- 1939 Quit Claim Deed, January 26, 1939. Recorded in Book 92, page 481. M.G. and Sue Proctor, Jr. to L.T. Proctor. 25 acres for \$1.
- 1947 Warranty Deed, January 30, 1947. Recorded in Book 111, page 435. Leslie T. and Nellie Proctor to William and Mildred Friday. 25 acres for \$10.
- 1952 Warranty Deed, November 13, 1952. Recorded in Book 118, page 623. Mildred L. Friday (former wife) to William J. Friday. 210 acres for \$4000.

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1971 Warranty Deed, March 24, 1971. Recorded in Book 153,
page 364. William J. Friday to United States of
America. 210 acres for \$57,000.

4. Original construction: Not long after acquiring land from Noel Datin, Mitchell Meteer began construction of a barn for his farmstead. This transverse crib barn shows well-crafted post-and-beam construction, with vertical plank sheathing. Doors open out from either end of the hayloft, and larger doors open out from the ground floor on the east and west sides.
5. Alterations and additions: At an undetermined date, shed wings were added to the north and south sides. Since remains of concrete foundations are present, these wings were undoubtedly constructed during the twentieth-century. A gabled shed was added to the east. As far as can be determined, the sheds were used for animal shelters and for vehicle storage. The granary walls were later lined with pressed metal sheet siding. Other minor alterations include the replacement of siding in a number of locations, the replacement of some doors and interior partitions, and the addition of asphalt shingles over earlier wood shingles on the roof.

B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Structure:

Mitchell Meteer came from Virginia to settle near Victor in Monroe County in 1847. At the time he bought the land for this farmstead he was 37. Accompanying him was his wife, Mary, and an infant son, John. A second son, James, was born in 1849. Mitchell Meteer died about 1867. Mary Meteer farmed the land until 1873, when she deeded most of it to the two sons. John W. Meteer later operated a sawmill near Victor (1894).

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: None located.
2. Bibliography:
 - a. Primary sources:

Hunt, Karen (Platz). "Draft of Historic Archeological Resource Report," Clarence Cannon Reservoir Human Ecology Project, 1977.

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Hunt, Karen (Platz), Florida, Missouri. Personal interview, July 28, 1978.

Land Assessment Books, 1862-77. Assessor's Office. Monroe County Courthouse, Paris, Missouri.

Landis, William, RFD, Paris, Missouri. Personal interview, July 28, 1978. Landis, 70, was born and still farms in the Victor vicinity. He remembers hearing his father talk about a Meteer who was a well-known barn-builder in the area.

Wilkerson, Ulmer, RFD, Paris, Missouri. Personal interview, July 28, 1978. Wilkerson's ancestors have lived in the Victor/South Fork area for three generations. His grandfather was a stonemason who was widely known in the area for his bridge piers and foundation work. Wilkerson owns a house once belonging to a William Meteer that was recently moved to the Wilkerson property. A small granary, strikingly similar in construction to the Meteer Barn, was also moved at about the same time from the Hatton Place, a farm in the vicinity of the Meteer farm. Wilkerson says that post-and-beam construction does not appear in the vicinity after 1870.

"U.S. Census Records, 1850." Dulaney Memorial Library, Paris, Missouri.

b. Secondary Sources:

Arthur, Eric and Witney, Dudley. The Barn: A Vanishing Landmark in North America (Greenwich, Connecticut: New York Graphic Society, Ltd., 1972).

Glassie, Henry. Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968).

Gray, Harold E. Farm Service Buildings (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1955).

Kaufmann, Henry J. The American Farmhouse (New York: Hawthorne Books, Inc., 1975).

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Marshall, Howard Wight. "The Concept of Folk Region in Missouri: the Case of Little Dixie." Ph.D dissertation. Indiana University, 1976.

Schob, David E. Hired Hands and Plowboys: Farm Labor in the Midwest, 1815-60 (Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1975).

van Ravenswaay, Charles. The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1977).

Wooley, John C. Planning Farm Buildings (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1963).

Prepared by William T. Morgan
Architectural Historian
Historic American Buildings
Survey
August, 1978

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Mitchell Meteer Barn is an example of the transverse crib barn type, nearly square in plan, and is constructed of heavy oak framing with mortise-and-tenon joinery.
2. Condition of fabric: Structural system: Excellent.
Interior and exterior finish:
Fair/poor.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 30'0" (three-bay front) by 28'0".
2. Foundation: Limestone slabs, laid one or two deep on or slightly below grade, form the base for the primary columns.
3. Walls: Rough-sawn 16" vertical boards with battens. The west elevation has been covered with strips of asphalt siding.

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4. Structural system: Heavy post-and-beam timbers using circular-sawn white oak lumber and a combination of butted-and-nailed and pegged mortise-and-tenon construction. Twenty 8" x 8" posts constitute the major support for the structure and define the spatial organization within, forming a building which is three bays by four bays. The building is composed of five braced-and-framed transverse sections (bents) which have been raised into place and connected by the structural members running longitudinally (east-west). Columns on the longitudinal exterior walls are topped by 5" x 8" rafter plates, and the two rows of interior columns are topped by 5" x 8" plates that receive the short secondary rafter. Four levels of 3" x 8" girts along the exterior walls provide blocking between the columns and carry the vertical plank sheathing. Each post is diagonally braced in the east-west direction (with the ones along the east and west walls also braced north-south). Bracing along the exterior east-west walls is attached to the girt, a foot below the rafter plate; bracing for the two rows of interior columns is attached to the secondary-rafter plate. 2" x 5" rafters, spaced 24" on center, are notched at the plates and rest on shorter but more steeply pitched secondary rafters at the ridge. The rafters are joined at the ridge without the use of a ridge board. Flat-laid floor joists (3" x 5", 16" on center) in the granary are notched at the ends and rest on notched sills. The major 3" x 7" joists for the hayloft are pegged into the columns, while the minor 2" x 6" joists which alternate with these (42" on center) rest on tapered horizontal strips nailed to the intermediate beams.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Three doors are placed symmetrically along the west wall. One is centered on the east wall. All doorways are framed with milled oak studs. Doors are made of rough-sawn vertical planks with Z-braces.
 - b. Windows: There are two small square openings in the granary, to the right of the door in the east elevation, and there is one small opening in the stall to the left.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Low-pitched gable, covered with asphalt shingles over earlier wood shingles.

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b. Cornices: Rafter ends are boxed with plain boards.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The Meter Barn has a transverse crib plan--a type which found great popularity throughout the region. In the Meter Barn a 4-1/2' wide central service alley with a door at each end runs the length of the structure, and is flanked by livestock stalls. The wall dividing the alley from the stalls is lined by low feed troughs. A small granary is located in the northeast corner. Haylofts have been created by laying boards across the joists in the areas above the stalls, with openings to allow hay to be dropped into the service alley below.
2. Stairways: A ladder on the west wall leads from the service alley to the loft.
3. Flooring: The granary has tongue-and-groove floorboards. Floors in the rest of the building are earth.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The interior finish consists of the untreated surfaces of the structural members and the inside face of the exterior planking. The walls of the granary are covered with sheets of patterned pressed metal.
5. Doorways and doors: No interior doors.
6. Mechanical systems: None.

D. Description of Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The Meter Barn faces west within a complex of farm structures, including a house, a garage, a smokehouse, a cattle shed and three wells. Only the cattle shed remains standing, but the concrete foundation of the other structures can be seen. The farm lies in a floodplain six hundred feet west of the South Fork of the Salt River.
2. Outbuildings: The barn is one of the surviving outbuildings on the farm, as is the cattle shed.

Prepared by Clayton B. Fraser
Project Supervisor
Historic American Buildings
Survey
August 1978

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in compliance with Executive Order 11593, as a part of mitigation efforts connected with the construction of the Clarence Cannon Dam and Reservoir. HABS was engaged to document structures of cultural, historical, or architectural significance located within the Cannon Reservoir Project Area, in portions of Monroe and Ralls County, Missouri. The project was completed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1978 by Clayton B. Fraser, Project Supervisor; William T. Morgan (University of South Florida) and Travis C. McDonald (University of Virginia), Architectural Historians; Barbara A. Hendricks (University of Texas), Project Foreman; and Student Architects Dwight H. Burns (Texas Tech University), W. Michael Coppa (University of Virginia), Stephen H. Lauf (Temple University), and Michael K. Murdock (University of Texas). The data was edited in July 1979 by J.A. Chewning, Architectural Historian in the HABS Washington office. Photographs were taken by David J. Kaminsky in August 1978 and by William C. Haines between February and May 1979.